

Support Efforts To Renovate JCA, Stewart Urges Community

By Olembe Wickham
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TORONTO, Ontario — The funds raised from a car raffle which the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) is holding to help raise funds for renovations to their building will benefit all members of the African Canadian community and not just the Jamaican community, according to JCA President Herman Stewart.

"The centre is bigger than the Jamaican community, it's for the entire Afro-Caribbean community," Stewart told Pride.

Stewart, who became president of the JCA last year, added that he thought past fundraising methods would not be enough to adequately fund the programs he wanted to see implemented.

"I decided that we had to get something much bigger (to raise funds for projects) than the past practices, such as walkathons and dances and so on," he said. The resulting idea was to raffle off a car in order to make substantial money for future JCA endeavours.

Stewart explained that the specific purpose of the raffle is to raise money for the renovation program at the JCA's premises at 995 Arrow Road in North York.

"We want to raise the funds, so that we can have a full-fledged community centre," he said.

According to Stewart, the programs and services that are operated out of the JCA helped 28,000 people: "We feel that with the bigger building, and more facilities, we will be able to double those numbers," he said.

The JCA president added that the highlight of the facility will be a recreational facility for youth.

"We are (also) going to have a Black Resource Centre, so that all the youngsters who were born here, or were raised here, can come into the Centre and read up on their heritage," he explained.

Stewart lamented the fact that many of the functions that happen in the African Canadian community are held in establishments that are not owned by African Canadians.

"With this building, we (the JCA) will be able to facilitate all of those meetings, and those banquets, and we will be able to leave the money within the community," he said.

The raffle is for a 1997 Ford Escort, which Stewart said was sold to the JCA at a very low price by Northtown Ford in Thornhill. The car is on display at various mall across the

Greater Toronto Area and his be in Richmond Hill and Mississauga on March 15.

Stewart stated that 20,000 tickets have been printed, in the hopes that \$100,000 will be generated. However, he reported that only 7,000 tickets have been sold so far, with the prize draw date of Saturday, March 22 drawing close.

"We are calling on the community to rally around (this cause) and support it, so it can be a success," he said. "It's for ourselves, it's for our children, it's for our community."

The raffle will take place at a fundraising dance at the OFL Auditorium at 15 Gervais Drive in Don Mills. For further information, call the JCA at (416) 746-5772. ☐

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MANLEY REMEMBERED

tional Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Ontario, also commented on the heavy impact Manley had on Jamaican political life. "We are saddened by his death," she said. Manley's powerful political presence, she remarked, was probably fashioned by the fact that his father, Norman, was also a top flight politician.

All those who reflected upon the death of Manley could not help but also marvel at the almost simultaneous passing of Guyanese President Dr. Cheddi Jagan, who died within the same 24-hour period as the former Jamaican leader.

"These were two great men," Armstrong said. "Having two men like these is a once in a lifetime thing."

Stewart noted the similarities between the two leaders, in that they both had a significant impact on the populations of their respective countries, and both were deeply involved in the trade union movements allied to their respective political parties.

The irony of the deaths was not lost on St. Juste: "It was interesting that both he and Cheddi Jagan passed away on the same day," she said. Their political contemporaries — such as the late Barbadian Prime Ministers Errol Barrow and Tom Adams — had also wanted the same thing: for the Caribbean region to have the right to determine its own future. ☐